

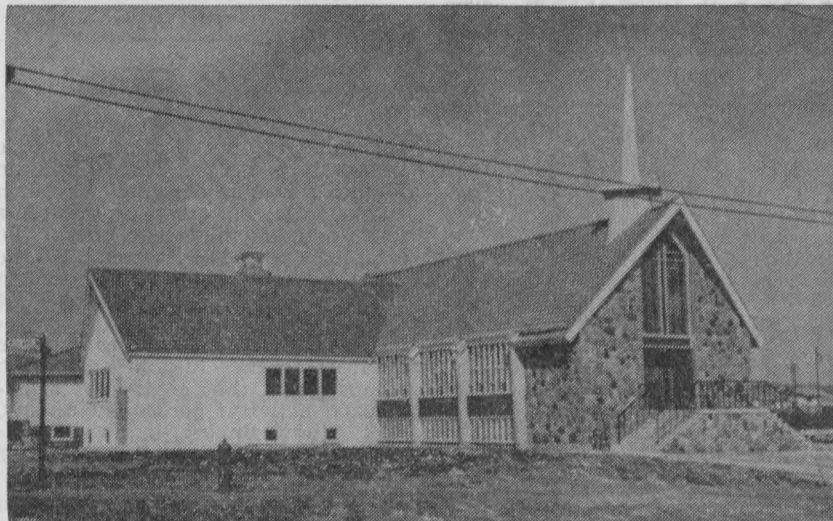
THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

VOLUME 11

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, JUNE, 1956

No. 4



The New Vancouver Church

THE VANCOUVER CONGREGATION
WELCOMES DELEGATES AND GUESTS

TO THE
Seventy-First Annual Convention
OF THE
Icelandic Synod
OF THE
United Lutheran Church in America

HOST PASTOR—THE. REV. E. S. BRYNJOLFSSON

Dates—July 8th-11th, 1956

THE PARISH MESSENGER

News Journal of the Icelandic
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of
America.

Printed quarterly in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The REV. S. O. THORLAKSSON, Editor.
240 San Fernando Way
San Francisco 27 Calif., U.S.A.



REV. E. S. BRYNJOLFSSON

"WELCOME"

Welcome to all pastors, delegates and visitors to our Convention and to the Dedication of our New Church! We are very busy preparing, and we hope everything will be in order. We will open our homes and our hearts for you all. The beauty of the Coast will fascinate everybody: the refreshing breeze from the ocean, the dignity and majesty of God in the nature, the loveliness of the millions of flowers everywhere — and above all the warm fellowship and friendship and hospitality and joy in the Grace of God and our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Welcome! We are looking for-

ward to seeing you . . . "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13.)

The Icelandic Lutheran Church of Vancouver,

Rev. E. S. BRYNJOLFSSON,
Pastor.

Come to Camp!

Another camping season is now beginning in our wonderful Sunrise Lutheran Camp. The Lutheran Women's League of synod who own and operate this camp urge parents to send their children to one of the camping periods. Remember the place, Husavik, Man., 56 miles north of Winnipeg, four miles south of Gimli. The camp is in excellent condition and offers again its fine facilities to the children and youth of our synod. For eight days of organized activity: games, swimming, Bible study, singing, etc., the fee is only \$12.50. Here is the summer's schedule:

July 3rd-11th—BOYS, 10 years and over.

July 11th-19th—GIRLS, 13, 14 and 15..

July 19th-27th—BOYS, 7, 8 and 9.

July 27th-August 4th—GIRLS, 7, 8 and 9.

August 5th-13th—GIRLS, 10, 11, 12.

August 13th-16th—YOUTH RALLY
(Post-Confirmation).

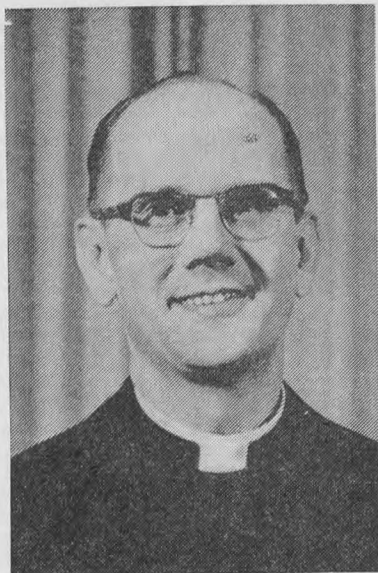
Register immediately! Write Mrs. S. Olafson, Box 701, Selkirk, Man., for registration and further information.

"Iceland sends oil to Arabs" is a news item to elicit quizzical expressions. The oil, however, is of the cod liver variety. Twenty-one drums containing nearly ten thousand pounds of it — the equivalent of more than 750,000 teaspoon doses — were the gift this winter of the Lutheran Church in Iceland to the undernourished Arab children in the Palestinian refugee camps. Nearly half the destitute there are under the age of fifteen.

Lutheran World Federation workers distributed the oil to the needy.

The Rev. John F. Futchs, D.D.

Introducing the U.L.C.A. Representative to our Synod Convention.



THE REV. JOHN F. FUTCHS, D.D.

Official Representative of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Our synod warmly welcomes the Rev. Dr. John Futchs to our convention! Dr. Futchs, our official representative of the United Lutheran Church, comes to us from Denver, Colorado, where he is president of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ULCA. The Rocky Mountain Synod is a fast-growing synod with over 20 congregations in the States of Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. Present baptized membership is about 12,000. Dr. Futchs became the first full-time president of the synod in 1951. Prior to that he had served as president from 1946-48, while also serving one of its congregations.

Dr. Futchs is a native of Wilmington, North Carolina. He graduated from our Wagner College (ULCA) in 1927, and from our Seminary in Philadelphia in 1930. He was ordained on July 9th, 1930. He has served parishes in Weatherly, Penn-

sylvania, Garden Parish, Virginia, and Boulder, Colorado. He is a member of the executive committees of the boards of our Midland College and Central Seminary in Fremont, Nebraska, and a member of the Board of Deaconess Work of our United Lutheran Church.

It is with pleasure that we welcome this president of one of our sister-synods of the United Lutheran Church to be the official spokesman of the ULCA. He comes well equipped to inspire us with a message of the "whole program of the whole Church" because he is the leader of a synod that stands at the top of the list of the 34 ULCA synods in the promotion of stewardship and evangelism.

Anniversaries

June is not only the month for wedding anniversaries, but for pastors it marks the time of their ordination into the ministry. This month marks some special ordination anniversaries: For Dr. H. Sigmar in Blaine this convention marks the 45th year of his ordination. He was ordained in his home church at Grund, near Glenboro. This is the 40th anniversary for Pastor S. O. Thorlakson. Forty years ago he was ordained in his home church in Selkirk, and left soon after with his wife for Japan where they served for 25 years. Years in the ministry for other synodical pastors are: Dr. R. Marteinsson, 58; Pastor G. Guttormsson, 47; S. Olafsson, 41; V. J. Eylands, 29; E. P. Johnson, 22; E. H. Sigmar, 9; S. T. Guttormsson, 4; B. R. Fridriksson, 3; R. Weberg, 2; Olafur Skulason, 1.

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"

He lives, and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

—Samuel Medley

PARISH NEWS FLASHES

Argyle Parish

Members of St. Stephens Lutheran Church of Silver Heights, St. James, presented a concert in the I.O.O.F. Hall in Glenboro at the invitation of the Glenboro Lutheran Choir. It was a good-will tour. We rejoice to have had the opportunity to get acquainted with the St. Stephen Church. The concert was well attended and a great success.

Two boys were confirmed at Bru on Sunday the 10th of June, Theodore Carl Jonsson and Dennis John Nordman.

Recent baptisms: Shari Doris Thiry, Glenboro; Irma Beth Johnson, Baldur; Leslie Ann Johnson, Winnipeg; Donald Wayne Myrdal, Glenboro; Wilfred Clair Johansson, Belmont; Robert Garry Isberg, Glenboro; Karen Anne Fraterman, Glenboro.

Recent deaths: Kristjan Gudnason, Baldur, 90 years; Baby M. J. Ready, Glenboro; John Davidson, Baldur, 63 years; Kjartan Isfeld, Glenboro, 66 years.

The 4-H Club in Glenboro sponsored a service in the Glenboro Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 27th. Forty-eight members paraded from the Glenboro Arena to the church. Herman Arason represented the Calf Club and read the Scripture for the day. Wayne Herman Johnson and Roy Malyon represented the Seed Club as ushers; Margaret Curl represented the Sewing Club as soloist. Rev. Fredriksson spoke on stewardship: "What Shall I Render unto the Lord for All His Benefits Toward Me".

Svold Parish

Peters Lutheran Church held its annual meeting in May. Those elected to the Board of Trustees are as follows: Bob Sturlaugson, president; Mrs. Dori Hillman, secretary; David Davidson, treasurer; Eldon Hillman and Everett Hillman, members-at-large. These trustees will be installed on May 27th.

It was decided to revise the by-laws of the church. A committee consisting of A. S. Dinusson, Matt

Bjornson and Dave Davidson were chosen to work on the revision.

Michael Earl, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schuster, was baptized at church service, May 6th. His sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lund of Union.

Sponsors for Michael John Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Thompson, were Mrs. Chris Thompson, paternal grandmother and Ben Thompson, uncle.

Both children were baptized by Rev. Olafur Skulason.

In March, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Quam celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Open house was sponsored by their children to the many friends and relatives who called to congratulate the honored couple.

Peters Lutheran Sunday School opened on May 13. The following are in charge:

Mrs. Garnet Mountain, Supt.; Mrs. Palmi Hannesson, Sec.-Treas.; Mrs. K. D. Dinusson, Organist; Mrs. Manfred Newell, Mrs. Walter Clifford, Mrs. Wilbur Johnson, Mrs. Harvey Thompson, Mary Beth Thompson, Carol Pleasance, Margaret Thordarson.

Many fine comments have been coming from our members since they received their first issue of Rev. Skulason's church paper, "The Parish Caller". This is just another example of the fine work Rev. Skulason is doing for his parish.

Gimli Parish

Gimli parish, along with Riverton and Arborg, held a successful week of mission services from May 6-11. Almost 3,000 was the attendance figure for the entire area during the week. Up to the final night, when a joint rally was held at Gimli, figures showed attendance of 962 at Gimli, 918 at Riverton, and 903 at Arborg. Dr. Kenneth Hewitt of Columbia, S.C., was the missionary for Gimli; Rev. Herbert Hartig of Spruce Grove, Alta., at Riverton; and Rev. Merle Franke of Minneapolis, Minn., at Arborg. The mission was particularly well received at Riverton and Arborg, where there is no resident pastor, and these districts

are now most desirous of obtaining the services of a pastor. We in Gimli pray that some young man may answer the call to come to this area, both for the sake of the people there and to remove some of the extra heavy load on our own pastor. It is with deep regret that the Gimli church board has accepted the resignation of Pastor Bragi Fridriksson because he and his wife wish to return to Iceland. We wish them a happy and blessed life as they go back to their native land. Gimli will now be seeking a new pastor to commence service here in September, 1956.

The Fishermen's Festival Service was held May 13th, with the choir of the new St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Silver Heights, and their pastor, Rev. Eric Sigmar, taking part in the service.

Mrs. Laufey Olson, widow of Rev. Olson, will spend the summer in the Gimli-Riverton-Arborg area as a parish worker, assisting with a vacation school and Luther League activities. The Sunday School and kindergarten wound up their season's activities the second week in June. Mothers of the kindergarten expressed their appreciation to Mrs. J. H. Menzies and Mrs. George Johnson, the teachers, with a gift to each of them. This summer Gimli will also lose a valuable member in Mrs. Eric Orton, who has been most active in the church 15 years, playing the organ, directing a girls' choir, and in the Sunday School. We wish her well in her new home at Shilo, Manitoba.

The choir have new gowns and capes of a beautiful wine colour, which they wore for the first time on Mother's Day. The following young people were received into the church as confirmed members on May 13th: Robert Tergesen, Keith Sigmundson, Roy Stasiuk, David Bjarnason, Corinne Johnson and Fanny Isfeld. As a result of the mission, a number of adults who have not been members, though they have been attendants of this church, will join the membership on June 17.

* * *

The Vidines Church has conducted a Church School this winter with 53 children enrolled and five teach-

ers. Eight children were confirmed on June 24th.

* * *

A Vacation Church School has been held in Arnes Lutheran Church with 35 children enrolled.

Point Roberts Parish

The Sunday School has been active as usual. The Friday before Lent, the Sunday School Superintendent and Teachers gave a dinner for all the Sunday School pupils at the home of Mrs. Irene Waters. After dinner, slides were shown, and then games and singing were enjoyed. The youngsters look forward to these fellowship hours, and keep their attendance up in order to be able to have them. On Easter Sunday, the parents were invited and Biblical slides were shown on "The Easter Story" and "Bethlehem of Today".

Our Easter Service was held on the 8th of April, with Dr. H. Sigmar in the pulpit. There was a fairly good attendance, and the church was nicely decorated in spite of a lack of local flowers.

On Mother's Day the Sunday School invited all their mothers, and after a short program especially dedicated to all the mothers of the community, each child presented his mother with a lovely corsage. The oldest and youngest mothers were also given beautiful bouquets of flowers.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we were unable to have a Mother's Day Service. At this time of the year so many of our members are employed elsewhere, that services are discontinued until in the fall. We hope that at that time to start afresh with better and bigger attendance than ever.

Langruth Parish

The Senior Lutheran League conducted a service on Good Friday. C. H. Dickens' Seven Days and the Seven Words were read from the pulpit by seven members of the Senior Luther League. The choir consisted of the Luther League, who sang well chosen hymns for the day.

We have been fortunate that the Rev. Eric Sigmar has been able to give us a service once each month

this spring and early summer. He has assisted us greatly by singing at service in place of the choir. At one service the two Leagues, Junior and Senior, sang two hymns for Anthem.

Christian Vocation Sunday was held in May. There was a very appropriate reading by John Marteinsson. The two Luther Leagues sang in the choir.

On Whitsunday we had Confirmation and Communion service. Ten young people were confirmed:

Doris Johnson, Shirley Hanneson, Alice Jabush, Georgina Scott, Ruth Adolphson, Sylvia Thompson, Victor Johnson, Reginald Albrecht, Joseph Lasson, Irwin Isfeld.

It was a beautiful service and Rev. Sigmar spoke with great feeling to the Confirmation Class. There were 60 communicants. The beauty of the Confirmation service will long remain with us.

Mountain Parish

The Vikur Congregation was represented at the Sunday School Conference held in Winnipeg on April 22nd by our Superintendent, Mr. Arnold Christianson, Mrs. Sam Steinolfson, Mrs. Wm. Halldorson, Mrs. Wm. Olgeirson and Mrs. Jack Thorfinson. Rev. Skulason accompanied the group and furnished the transportation.

In Cavalier, we were joined by the Vidalins Parish teachers and continued on to the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. The afternoon was spent in classes and group discussion. One group was directed by Miss Eleanore Gillstrom and another by Mrs. B. Bjarnason. Election of officers followed. Mr. Arnold Christianson was elected vice-president of the Association of Sunday School Teachers of the Icelandic Synod.

The Deacons of the Church served a delicious turkey dinner to all attending the conference. In the evening there was a special Youth Service. Both the Youth Choir and the regular Choir rendered anthems. A film was shown on Mission work. A social hour followed and lunch was served.

The Conference was very instructive and we enjoyed it immensely. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the First Lutheran

Church for their splendid hospitality.

Representatives of the United Lutheran Church conducted a workshop at the Mountain School April 20th. It was attended by teachers from Gardar, Vidalins, Eyford and Mountain. The group was divided for instruction in teaching the various grades. Suitable material for teaching was suggested and a film was shown. Lunch was served by the Sunday School committee.

Confirmation Services were held May 20th in the Mountain Church. There were fourteen Confirmants and 101 who received Communion. Baccalaureate Services were held in the Mountain Lutheran Church on May 23rd. There were twenty-three graduates.

The Mountain Choir undertook the procurement of a carpet for the church, the initial funds being raised by a concert given by the Gardar-Edinburg Choir and sponsored by our Choir. Other contributions thus far are: \$100.00 given by the Sunday School; \$25.00 given by the Eyford Ladies Aid; and \$25.00 given by Lena Paulson, N.D. The fund is still incomplete.

There was a special Service Sunday, June 3rd, celebrating the completion of the remodeling of our Church. Guests at the service included Dr. and Mrs. Valdimar J. Eylands from Winnipeg, Mrs. E. Fafnis of Bottineau and Rev. Eric Sigmar of Winnipeg. Dr. Eylands delivered the sermon and Rev. Sigmar sang a solo in Icelandic.

The infant daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Olafur Skulason was christened in an Icelandic Service. Dr. and Mrs. V. J. Eylands and Mordur Skulason were sponsors. The name given was Gudrun Ebba.

Gisli Halldorson, president of the congregation, spoke a few words of appreciation for the co-operation shown during the remodeling of the Church and also to our Pastor Skulason, who has served us so faithfully and well.

The Choir, under the direction of Mr. Alfred Paulson, and Organist Mrs. Esther Olgeirson contributed splendidly towards making this a very festive occasion.

Monday evening, June 4th, there was a special recognition program in

our Church. Rev. Skulason spoke a few words of appreciation to all those who helped to make our Church so beautiful and complete. Rev. S. Guttormson of Cavalier gave a message on "Stewardship". Rev. Eric Sigmar of Winnipeg spoke on "Evangelism". Dr. V. J. Eylands of Winnipeg spoke on "What Does the Church Have to Offer". All three messages were very inspiring and fluently delivered. Rev. Eric Sigmar sang "My Task", "Tarid" and "Prayer for Peace". The last song was written by his brother, Rev. Harald Sigmar. This was followed by a social hour and lunch served by the Deaconesses. It was altogether a very enjoyable evening.

We wish to especially mention those that served on the remodeling committee: F. M. Einarson, chairman; G. K. Halldorson, secretary; C. S. Gudmundson, treasurer; L. M. Byron, G. Gudmundson and F. A. Bjornson. The carpenters: Sig. Steinolfson, W. H. Hanneson, Percy Hanson and Alfred Paulson. The wiring: Alfred Hanson. Artistic designing and staining of the windows: Thora Halldorson. The painting of the floor and varnishing of the pews: Mrs. W. H. Hanneson. The installation of water, sinks and lavatories in the basement: Mike Byron and K. F. Gudmundson.

Gifts to the church include: The outside and inside doors given by Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Einarson. The Hymn board given by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hillman. The Sunday School Board given by Mr. and Mrs. Sig. Steinolfson.

The Ladies Aid started this project by giving \$250.

Hecla Parish

On Tuesday, June 12th, our church was hit by lightning. The steeple will have to be rebuilt and the electric wiring re-done as the shock seemed to follow the whole electric system, pushing out boards where outlets were and tore out the plaster board and siding of the vestibule. Puffs of black smoke were seen towering from the steeple but it did not burn, for which we are very thankful as there were so few men at home, most of them being away fishing, that it would have been com-

pletely demolished. Plans were in the making for repainting but repairs will have to be made before this can be carried out.

Due to a tragic drowning of one of our young boys this spring our annual picnic, proceeds going to the church, was postponed until August, when the men come home from fishing. We hope for a good turn out then to help pay the added expense.

Our Confirmation Service is scheduled for August so we pray that all repairs and painting will be completed by then.

We pray for every success with the convention in Vancouver and for the synod in the year to come.

Vidalin Parish

We are planning and looking forward to the Evangelism Mission to be held in our church in November. Mrs. Gisli Sampson was elected Evangelism Lay Secretary. After she attended the Area meeting she met with Pastor Skulason and our church board where the following committee heads were appointed:

Prayer, Mrs. E. Erlendson; Lay Visits, Albert Widme; Publicity, E. M. Erlendson; Hospitality, Mrs. G. T. Johnson; Music, Mrs. Sig Thorlakson; Telephone, Mrs. Robert Vivatson; and Finance, Erik Thorlakson. Mrs. Sam Olafson was appointed Area Music Chairman.

Sunday School is again in session with 48 enrolled. We have nine teachers and Mrs. E. M. Erlendson is Superintendent.

The Ladies Aid elected new officers at their May meeting. President, Mrs. G. T. Johnson; Vice-President, Mrs. Wm. Vivatson; Secretary, Mrs. Harry T. Johnson; and Treasurer, Mrs. Thos. Einarson. A report of the year's activities was given and it was voted to give \$50.00 to the Cemetery fund.

A cemetery clean up was held before Memorial Day with about 40 men and women attending. Pot luck lunch was served. We are grateful for the interest in caring for the cemetery. Several rows of trees have been planted bordering the enlarged church property on two sides. Mr. H. V. Arnason and the Soil Conservation planted the last of these trees the week of May 25th. Mr. C. A.

Anderson brought his tractor and cultivated the trees.

We will have more information concerning the Evangelism Mission in a future issue of Parish Messenger.

First Lutheran, Winnipeg

Our pastor, Dr. Eylands and his wife left for Iceland in late June to be present at the 900th Anniversary of Skalholt's beginning (first headquarters of the Church of Iceland). They are guests of the State Church. Services and parish duties will be assumed by Rev. B. Fridriksson of Gimli, and Rev. Eric Sigmar of St. James during the pastor's absence.

Our church was host to the Annual Sunday School Teachers' convention which was held in late April. Over 80 teachers attended from most of our congregations . . . We were also host to the Annual Convention of the Lutheran Women's League held in early June . . . The Lutheran Evangelism Mission Area Committee met in our church in June. Twenty-nine congregations are participating in the Winnipeg Area Mission. Missioner (Guest Preacher) for our congregation will be Dr. Robert Stackel of New York City, Director of Evangelism Program in our ULCA. We have already organized all our congregational committees in preparation for the Mission, November 11th-16th.

Vancouver, B.C.

Our Easter Sunday was marvelous! Two services, 600 people attended! . . . We celebrated our 12th anniversary on April 2nd. Festivities were well attended and everyone very happy . . . We have been very active these last two months—many meetings and discussions . . . Our Women's Auxilliary had a silver coffee party (they had tea also!) on May 16th. Mrs. John Sigurdson was general convenor. There was a display of Icelandic handicraft. There were hundreds of guests, and the pastor had to speak about six languages, but stopped at the 7th—Chinese! Everyone found the church attractive and dignified. A few women came as a group from our neighboring church, St. Giles United "just to show us how good neighbors we have". That was appreciated.

Our delegates to the convention are: L. H. Thorlaksson, Mrs. Gisli Bergvinsson, Mrs. E. A. Nygaard.

At the April 4th meeting of the W.A., the ladies who formerly lived in Winnipegosis surprised those present by donating very useful and precious items for the new kitchen of the church . . . Our first confirmation was on May 6th in the new church, when 11 were confirmed, the largest class in the history of the congregation . . . Our Young People's Association is very active, on June 1st they sponsored the showing of interesting colored films; they turned over the offering to the "Piano fund". They have a volleyball team as part of the volley-ball league of the Lutheran churches of Vancouver.

Recently the pastor conducted an Icelandic service in the Calvary Church, Seattle, in connection with the 30th anniversary services there. Three families with eight children have recently joined our congregation.

Seattle Parish

Calvary Lutheran church recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Actually it is much older. It originated as a preaching point in 1900, reorganized as the present congregation in 1925 but did not call its first full time pastor until 1926. Pastor Harald Sigmar of Kelso preached at the 11.00 a.m. service, Pastor Eric Brynjolfson at an Icelandic language service at 2.30, and the Rev. K. Simundsson at a festival service at 7.30 in the evening. About 600 people were in attendance during the day. Anniversary gifts were given to the church by the Deacons, the Women of the church, the Vestri Literary Society and the Eining Society.

On June 10th the Icelandic community was featured in a full page of the story section of the Seattle Daily Times. A special emphasis was given to the religious life of the Icelandic people and in particular Calvary Church. Those pictured were Jakobina Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Jon Magnusson, Pastor Weberg and Mr. Karl Frederick. Many prominent people of the Icelandic colony were mentioned.

The choir is presenting a spring concert on June 17th and the Luther League is sponsoring a youth service on June 24th. Pastor Weberg is a chaplain (1st Lieut.) in the Army Reserve and is taking a fifteen-day tour of duty beginning the 15th of June. A two week daily vacation Bible school is being planned for August. The many friends of the home for the aged in Blaine from Calvary Church entertained at the home the first Sunday in June. Dennis Bjornson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tani Bjornson, was recently honored with a trip to a music conference in St. Louis. Dennis is one of the top students in music in the Seattle Public School system — possibly in the state. A class of six were confirmed the first Sunday after Easter. Guest speakers during the summer will be: Rev. Rismiller of Seattle and Rev. Fagerberg, Dean of the L.B.I. in Minneapolis, Minn.

St. Stephen's—Silver Heights

Palm Sunday was the official organization day of our congregation. It was a thrilling day for the 100 adults and 76 children who were its Charter Members. Present membership is 106 adults and 82 children. Average attendance for March and

April at morning service was 104! With the coming of summer the May and June average has seen a slight drop to 95.

Our choir now has 21 members, and they render an anthem at every service. Besides this they sang at the Fishermen's Festival in Gimli in May, and also put on two full concerts away from home, one in Glenboro and one at the Welsh Church in Winnipeg. Our first Building Fund Drive was held the last week in May and \$8,000 was raised in cash and pledges for our future church! We have now paid for our church site, and are making the regular monthly payments on the loans to purchase the parsonage.

At our first congregational meeting after organization we called Rev. Eric Sigmar, Mission Developer, to be our first pastor . . . Our Sunday School enrollment when we held our Closing Exercise on June 17th was 76; average attendance has been 65 during the spring months. We had a wonderful picnic at Colmer's Park, near Beausejour, Man., on Sunday afternoon, June 17th. Over 130 attended our Sunday School service and then everyone drove to the picnic grounds about 40 miles from our place of worship, the St. James Y.M.C.A.

Betel Building Drive

Everyone is interested in our Old People's Home, Betel! Betel has been a haven of hope for our older people for over forty years. With limited facilities it has given loving care to hundreds of our senior citizens through the years. But now Betel is in desperate need of rebuilding. The old building is now a dangerous fire-trap, equipment and facilities are out-of-date, and the waiting list is long. At our convention last year, synod decided to launch out on a Building Fund Drive for \$175,000 to build a new unit, and remodel the old one. You have read much of the publicity that has been given this important project of our. The Betel Board of

Directors created a Building Campaign Committee. This committee has attempted to organize financial drives in all our communities through the winter. The winter was difficult, so the campaign for funds was greatly hindered. But the committee is happy to report that of this date, about half our goal has been raised in cash and pledges—\$85,000. (This includes the Manitoba Government grant of \$42,500.) Many communities have not yet begun their drive for funds for Betel, but are planning to do so this summer. The committee respectfully urges all our parishes and communities to organize their local canvas as soon as possible. The sooner the necessary funds are raised, the sooner we can properly and adequately care for our beloved older people.

SCHEDULE FOR SYNOD CONVENTION

Seventy-First Convention, Vancouver, B.C., July 8-11th, 1956

SATURDAY, JULY 7th:

Arrival of Delegates and Guests, Convention Train arriving at 8:30 a.m.

9:00 to 12 noon: Registration of Delegates and Guests at Vancouver Church, 41st and Canby. Coffee served by Pastor and Mrs. E. Brynjolfsson.

Early afternoon: Tour of the City.

Refreshments served at home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Thorlaksson.

SUNDAY, JULY 8th:

10:45 a.m. Corner-stone laying ceremony.

11:00 a.m. Dedication of New Church. Synod Communion Service.

Sermon: Rev. G. Guttormsson.

Liturgists: Pastors E. Brynjolfsson, R. Marteinson, D.D., and H. Sigmar, D.D.

Communion Celebrants: Pastors S. Olafson, S. O. Thorlaksson and R. Weberg.

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Official Opening of Convention.

Reception of St. Stephen's Church into Synod.

Reports of President, Secretary and Treasurer.
(Special Synodical Offering.)

7:30 p.m. Icelandic Service.

Sermon: Rev. Olafur Skulason.

Liturgists: Pastors B. R. Fridriksson and J. Fredriksson.

Music by local congregation.

MONDAY, JULY 9th:

9:00 a.m. Devotions—Pastor S. T. Guttormsson.

Business Session:

Report of Credentials Committee.

Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel (Resolutions).

Report of Betel Committee.

Report of Special Betel Committee for Building Campaign.

Announcement of Convention Committees.

12:00-1:30 p.m. Dinner and Recess.

1:30 p.m. Business Session:

a. Christian Education and Youth Work.

1. Report by Chairman of Synod Committee, Bonnie Bjarnason.

2. Report by Mrs. Laufey Olson, Parish Worker.

3. Open Discussion and Resolution.

b. Women's Work.

1. Report of Lutheran Women's League.

2. Discussion and Resolution.

3. Manitoba Temperance Alliance Report.

c. Lutheran Laymen's Work. Open Discussion.

- 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break.
4:00 p.m. Stewardship Report—S. T. Guttormsson.
5:30 p.m. Evangelism Report—E. H. Sigmar.
6:00-8:00 p.m. Supper and Recess.
8:00 p.m. Official Presentation of "Whole Program of Whole Church".
Dr. John Futchs, President of Rocky Mountain Synod, ULCA.
Laymen's Remarks on Stewardship—Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson.
Music provided by local congregation.
Special Offering (synod).

TUESDAY, JULY 10th:

- 7:30-8:45 a.m. Laymen's Breakfast, Stanley Park.
Speakers: Dr. John Futchs, Pastor S. T. Guttormsson.
Chairman, N. O. Bardal.
9:00 a.m. Business Session (Devotions, Pastor S. T. Guttormsson).
a. Roll Call.
b. Report of Convention Committee on Homes for the Aged.
c. Report of Convention Committee on Publications.
d. Report of Convention Committee on Evangelism.
e. Report of Convention Committee on Missions and Vacant Fields.
12:00 Noon: Dinner.
1:30 p.m. Business Session (Devotions).
a. Presentation of Lutheran World Action and Relief.
Pastor S. T. Guttormsson. Discussion and Resolutions.
b. Unfinished business or break for Committee meetings.
3:30 p.m. Coffee Break.
4:00 p.m.:
a. Report of Convention Committee on Stewardship.
b. Report of Convention Committee on Finance.
c. Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel.
d. Unfinished business.
6:00 p.m. Supper
8:00 p.m. Evening Program: Youth Night.
Speakers: Pastors B. R. Fridriksson and E. H. Sigmar.
Music to be arranged locally.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11th:

- 9:00 a.m. Devotions.
a. Annual Election of Officers and Committees.
b. Constitutional Amendments (if any).
c. Unfinished business.
d. New business.
e. Committee on Reference and Counsel.
f. Closing Exercises, etc.
12:00 Noon Excursion to Pt. Roberts for Salmon Bake and Informal Program (tentative).

THE SYNOD TREASURER SPEAKS:—

As at June 25th, 1956.

Congregation	Confirmed		Apportionment			Other
	Members	Assessment	Paid	LWA		
Arborg	242	\$ 510.62	\$ 100.00	\$ 25.00		\$
Arnes	41	86.51	60.00			
Baldur Immanuel	111	234.21	150.00	42.00		
Frelsis Grund	31	65.41	65.41	33.50		
Brown Gudbrands	43	90.73	50.00			
Cavalier United Lutheran	171	360.81	841.25	65.51		315.90
Churchbridge Logberg	20	42.20				
Concordia	94	198.34	25.00	22.00		
Thingvallanylendu	22	46.42				
Cypress River Bru	109	229.99	165.00			
Gimli	302	637.22	637.27	67.85		205.52
Glenboro	114	240.54	180.00			
Hecla Mikleyar	75	158.25	100.00			
Hnausa	53	111.83	50.00			
Husavick	28	59.08	60.00			
Langruth	131	276.41	324.36	55.00		41.06
Lundar	194	409.34	90.25			
St. Paul's Minneota and						
Westerheims	201	424.11	425.00	55.00		
Lincoln	75	158.25	152.67			
Mountain Parish						
Fjalla	43	90.73	100.00	25.00		
Hallson	43	90.73	35.00	5.00		4.30
Peters Svold	125	263.75	35.00			2.45
Vidalins	142	299.62	299.62	20.00		11.05
Vikur	142	299.62	76.46			
Point Roberts Trinity	29	61.19	61.19			
Riverton	214	451.54	100.00			
Seattle Calvary	215	453.65	222.91	78.98		
Selkirk	328	692.08	400.00	78.30		
Silver Bay Betel	67	141.37	30.00			
Vancouver	220	464.20	489.20			
Vidir	62	130.82	50.00			
Winnipeg First Lutheran	899	1,869.89	1,370.35	35.00		
Blaine	93	194.12	261.00	31.23		
Geysir	132	278.52	30.00			
St. Stephen's, Silver Heights..			323.08	30.23		
Gardar North Dakota						50.00

A BRACING PRAYER

Oh, do not pray for easier lives,
 Pray to be stronger men:
 Do not pray for tasks equal to your
 powers,
 Pray for powers equal to your tasks.
 Then the doing of your work shall
 be no miracle,

But you shall be the miracle.
 Every day you shall wonder at
 yourself,
 At the richness of life that has come
 to you
 By the grace of God.

—Phillips Brooks

GIVE TO GO!.....with the Gospel

THE POWER TO GIVE PROVIDES THE POWER TO GO. MORE POWER WILL BE AT HAND IN 1956 WHEN UNITED LUTHERANS INCREASE THEIR BENEVOLENCE PLEDGES BY 26% TO 30% FOR THE NEW \$7,587,944 BUDGET FOR THE NEW, DYNAMIC UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF 1956. ULCA CAUSES WILL BE ALLOCATED NEW POWER AS FOLLOWS:

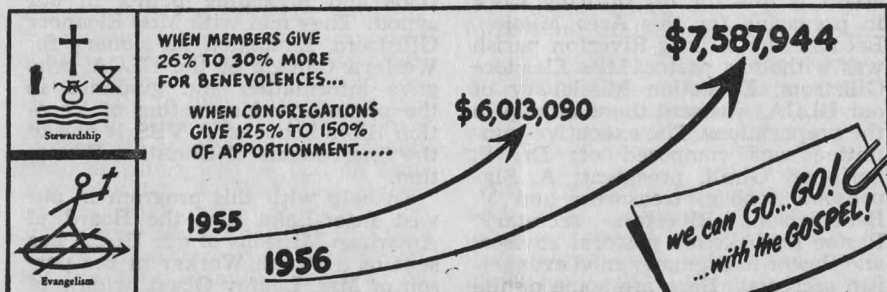
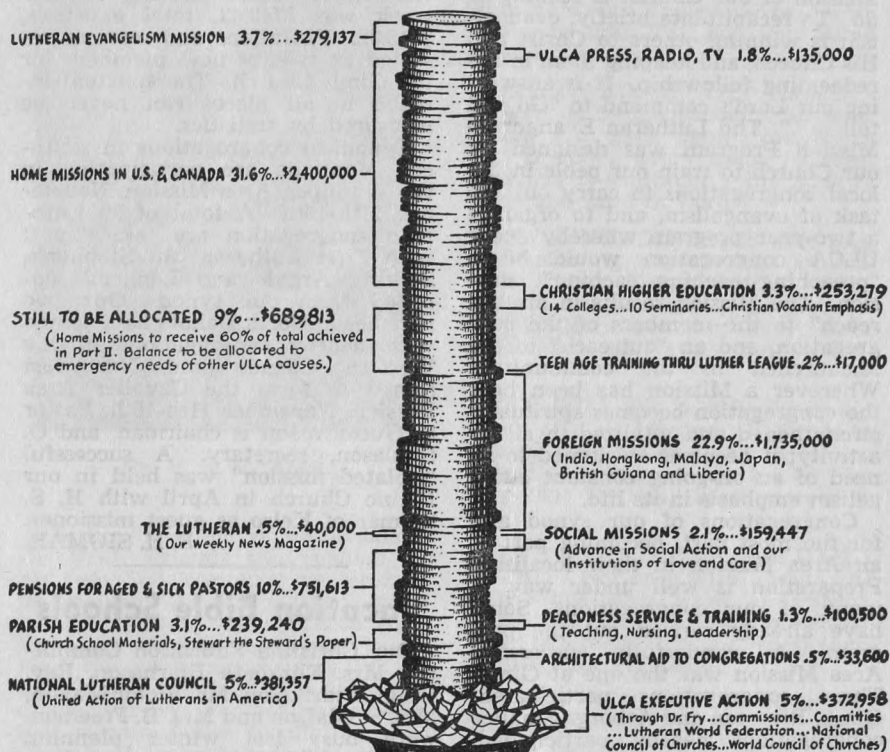


Chart prepared by Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

THE EVANGELISM SECRETARY SPEAKS

The Lutheran Evangelism Mission is on the march! Throughout all areas of our United Lutheran Church enthusiastic success stories are being reported wherever an Area Mission has been held. By this time we all know what "evangelism" is, and what the "Lutheran Evangelism Mission of our Church is seeking to do. To recapitulate briefly, evangelism is winning others to Christ and His Church, and keeping them in His redeeming fellowship. It is answering our Lord's command to "Go and tell . . ." The Lutheran Evangelism Mission Program was designed by our Church to train our people in the local congregations to carry out the task of evangelism, and to organize a two-year program whereby every ULCA congregation would be a "preaching-reaching-teaching" mission. The Mission results in an "in-reach" to the members of the congregation, and an "outreach" to the unchurched in the communities. Wherever a Mission has been held the congregation becomes spiritually strengthened and vitalized in all its activity; it becomes awakened to its need of an on-going constant evangelism emphasis in its life.

Congregations of our synod are, for the most part, becoming part of an Area Mission in their localities. Preparation is well under way in many of our congregations. Some have already carried out the program. A wonderfully successful Area Mission was the one at Gimli. Three congregations participated: Gimli, Riverton and Arborg. Smaller congregations nearby participated. To Pastor B. R. Fridriksson great credit is due for his untiring work in preparing for this Area Mission. Because the Arborg-Riverton parish was without a pastor, Miss Eleanore Gillstrom, Education Missionary of our ULCA, was sent there to help in the preparations. The executive committee was composed of: Dr. F. Scribner, Gimli, president; A. Sigurdson, Arborg, treasurer; and V. Benedictson, Riverton, secretary; Pastor Fridriksson, pastoral advisor; and Pastor E. Sigmar, synod evangelism secretary. Here are some of the interesting statistics: Three guest

missioners: Pastor K. Hewitt of South Carolina in Gimli; Pastor M. Franke of Minneapolis in Arborg; and Pastor H. Hartig of Edmonton in Riverton. The Mission was supervised by the Rev. W. A. Mehlenbacher, regional director for Canada. Total attendance at Mission services was 2,907! Total offering for the week was \$742.62; total expenses, \$718.32. Visitations and services resulted in twenty new members for the Gimli Church. The spiritual in-reach in all places can never be measured by statistics.

Synodical congregations in southern Manitoba are participating in the Winnipeg Area Mission, November 11th-16th. A total of 29 Lutheran congregation are taking part with First Lutheran, St. Stephen's, Selkirk, Argyle and Langruth enrolled from our synod. Our two parishes in North Dakota have joined with nearby congregations of the Western Canada and Northwest Synod to form the Cavalier Area Mission, November 11th-16th. Pastor S. Guttormsson is chairman, and O. Skulason, secretary. A successful "isolated mission" was held in our Blaine Church in April with H. S. Sigmar of Kelso as guest missionary.

E. H. SIGMAR.

Vacation Bible Schools

Our Christian Education Committee, Mrs. Elizabeth Bjarnason, Rev. Bragi Fridriksson, Mr. Victor Maxon, Mrs. S. Olafson and Mrs. B. Freeman, were busy last winter planning Vacation Bible Schools for congregations and preaching points in our synod. They met with Miss Eleanore Gillstrom, Education Missionary for Western Canada of the ULCA, who gave information and guidance in the planning and operating of Vacation Bible Schools. A VBS is one of the finest media of Christian Education.

To help with this program in our vast Inter-Lake area the Board of American Missions of our ULCA has sent us a Parish Worker in the person of Mrs. Laufey Olson, widow of the late Rev. Carl Olson.

Synod President Visits Iceland



DR. V. J. EYLANDS

On June 22nd our synod president, Dr. V. J. Eylands accompanied by his wife, left Winnipeg by airplane for Iceland. As president of synod he had received an invitation from the State Church of Iceland to attend the 900th anniversary of the founding of Skalholt, first bishopric of the country. For 750 years Skalholt remained the "capital" of the Church of Iceland, both before and after the Lutheran Reformation. It was not only the religious center of the nation, but also the literary and cultural gathering place of the country, for there were no towns in Iceland until the 19th century. On this hallowed place in Iceland a new "cathedral" is to be built, the cornerstone of which will be laid on Sunday, July 1st. At that time church leaders from many countries will attend the festivities. Dr. Eylands will be there to represent our synod. He and Mrs. Eylands expect to remain in Iceland until mid-August.

Evangelism on the Wings of Prayer

(Every congregation of synod preparing for the Lutheran Evangelism Mission should distribute this prayer to all its people before the Mission.)

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN - Make us tremble, O Lord. Use this Mission as Thy throne-room. Silence us with Thy presence. Overwhelm us with Thy majesty. Blind us with Thy glory.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME - Restore us to the capacity for awe. Fasten our gaze upon "the Name that is above every name". Obsess us with His exaltation - the King of kings and Lord of Lords!

THY KINGDOM COME - We seek not flattering reports but surrendered spirits. Remind us that statistics are not necessarily a census of the Kingdom but that every knee should bow and every tongue confess.

THY WILL BE DONE - Keep our hands off this Mission, O Christ, be Though our only missionary. Hold our unbridled minds in check. We ask only that Thy will may succeed in us.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD - Not only with Loaves and Fishes but with Word and Sacrament. Our hands are always grasping - put them to work, keep them too busy for grasping.

AND FORGIVE US - Our failures have made this Mission necessary. Excuses have been more numerous than testimonies. Awaken us, we are asleep; stir us, we are lukewarm; trouble us, we are smug.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION - Deny us satisfaction, forbid us contentment, cut away vanity, burn out the infection of pride.

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL - Lest after representing Thee to others we should forget Thee. Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us! Lord, have mercy upon us!

THE STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY SPEAKS—

Remarking recently on the shortage of ministers in our synod, someone said to me, "With all the money we send to the United Lutheran Church in America, why can't we just go to the ULCA and tell them to send us some ministers?" I have no intention of singling that person out, but I would like to discuss this query because it is being asked all over our synod.

First of all, we are **not** sending in that much money to the ULCA! I don't know where we get our exaggerated sense of proportions, but we are not nearly as big nor are we as generous as we would like to think. Here is the hard fact: As long as I can remember the Icelandic Synod has been lowest of all synods in the ULCA in the amount of money forwarded for the support of the Benevolent work of the Church. In fact, you might compare us to an anchor, in that we have been holding back the entire Church because we haven't been doing our fair share to support the Church in her work. To use another figure, we are merely the tail on the dog; it is foolish for us to expect to "wag" the dog—we don't carry that much weight.

Second, let's get the picture of our Church (the ULCA) in focus. It is made up of some 30 other synods like ours. These other synods have the same rights, privileges, work and responsibilities as we do. Because of the democratic make-up of our Church, we have representation, in equal proportion with other synods, to the convention which regulates the life and work of the whole Church. Doesn't it seem a little presumptuous, then, for us to go before these other synods and demand that they give us some of their men? Actually, the other synods are concerned about us, out of a sense of brotherly love. But what kind of people are we, that we presume to have the right to demand it? Let us remember, with pangs of conscience, that we have done precious little to earn such love, and next to nothing to repay it!

Third, have we lost, altogether, the ability and the desire to take care of ourselves? Where did the other synods get the men for their ministries? They raised them from among their own people. The fact that we don't have enough pastors in our synod today is merely a reflection of the lack of interest and concern that our people have for the life, work, and future of our church. How could we have the gall to go before other synods to ask for **their** sons for **our** ministry, when we don't think enough of that ministry to man it with our own sons?

Finally, let's remember that we aren't **buying** anything with our Benevolence money, we are doing something through it. We are not paying for attention and respect and brotherly love. On the contrary, we are supporting Christ's work through His Church. We are commanded by Christ to carry on a missionary program, both in foreign countries and at home. We are too small to do that all alone; we would not be Christians if we didn't do it at all. Here is our solution: The ULCA, to which we belong, is the means by which we carry on that missionary work. By joining together with other synods, combining our resources with theirs, and by working for the same purposes together with them . . . we should be able to accomplish a great deal in the effort to carry out Christ's commands. The apportionment we receive from the ULCA is just the statement of our fair share (or equal proportion) of the cost of this work. We have never done our fair share, we have never met our apportionment in full.

I think it is time for us to quit making excuses for ourselves (an art at which we are rapidly becoming expert). Heroes of the faith are not made out of the soft stuff we have been trying to feed ourselves. May Christ give us courage to accept and strength to do our full and fair share of the work of our Church.

S. T. GUTTORMSON.